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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

RELEASED

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 H-01 ARA-16 L-03 CA-01 /027 W

133524 161642Z /50

R 161400Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7454

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 0375

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W JOHN J. SULLIVAN

Martinez?

REFS: A) 81 SAN SALVADOR 9460 B) SAN SALVADOR 0015 C) STATE 008533

1. AS WE POINTED OUT IN REF A, WE PLACE VERY LITTLE CREDENCE IN THE MARTINEZ LETTER, AND LESS IN THE MORAN LETTER. IN OUR OPINION TOSE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. OUR INITIAL EXAMINATION OF BOTH LETTERS INDICATE THEY WERE NOT WRITTEN BY THE SAME PERSON.

2. EL PLAYON, QUEZAL TEPEQUE, MENTIONED IN THE MARTINEZ LETTER, IS AN AREA OUTSIDE OF SAN SALVADOR WHERE BODIES ARE FREQUENTLY DUMPED. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE VIEWED BODIES LEFT THERE AND GENERALLY THE BODIES WERE DECOMPOSED TOTALLY OR PARTIALLY EATEN BY SCAVENGERS AND WERE UNIDENTIFIABLE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BODIES ARE EVENTUALLY BURIED WHERE THEY LAY BY LOCAL RESIDENTS. NO RECORDS ARE KEPT BOUT THESE BODIES. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY THE ALLEGED DUMPING OF SULLIVAN'S BODY AT EL PLAYON.

3. WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE "CELLS OF THE POLICIA DE HACIENDA". SECURITY FORCES MAINTAIN A NUMBER OF JAILS AND PRISIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND IF SULLIVAN HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE HACIENDA POLICE, HE COULD HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED IN ANY ONE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY ALL SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES, INCLUDING THE HACIENDA POLICE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE AND HAVE NEVER HAD CUSTDY OF JOHN SULLIVAN.

4. GOES' REACTION TO OUR REQUEST TO EXAMINE HACIENDA POLICE JAIL CELLS WOULD PROBABLY BE FAVORABLE. THE HACIENDA POLICE, HOWEVER, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SHOW US ONLY THE PUBLIC JAILS. THEY WOULD CERTAINLY CLEAN UP THE CELLS PRIOR TO OUR EXAMINATION AND IF IN FACT THE CELL DESCRIBED IN THE MARTINEZ LETTER EXISTS, IT IS UNLIKELY WE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO EXAMINE IT.

5. WE PLACED AN AD IN THE NEWSPAPER REQUESTING THAT WRITER OF SECOND LETTER CONTACT US. THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST SCENARIO TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ALLEGED AGENT MARTINEZ. WE WILL CONTINUE THIS IF DEPT CAN PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY FOR AD. WE HAD ONE REPLY TO OUR AD AND IT WAS FROM A WOMAN WHO SAID HER FEMALE COUSIN WROTE THE LETTER. THE CALLED DID NOT SEEM FAMILIAR WITH THE LETTER AND INDICATED HER COUSIN WAS NOT EMPLOYED BY THE POLICE. SHE WAS ASKED TO HAVE HER COUSIN CALL US. THEHHOUSIN HAS YET TO CONTACT US.

6. INFORMATION REGARDING THE POLICIA DE HACIENDA IS VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. WE WERE UNABLE TO VERIFY THE EXISTENCE OF AGENT MORAN AND IT IS UNLIKELY WE WILL BE ABLE TO VERIFY EXISTENCE OF AGENT MARTINEZ.
HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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